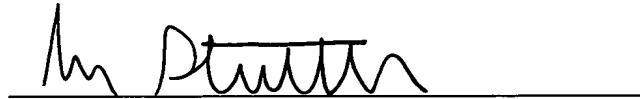


**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendments is concurrently filed with the above-entitled application, which is a continuation application of a presently pending application Ser. No. 09/854,212, entitled "Computer Implemented Fast, Approximate Clustering Based on Sampling ", filed on May 10, 2001. In this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have inserted a reference to the related parent application, canceled claims 4 and 18, and amended claims 2, 3, 5-14, 16, 17, 19 and 20. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5-17 and 19-22 are currently pending in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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